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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/350,251 07/08/99 MALEK

A 139.059US1

EXAMINER

021186 PM82/0330
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NGUYEN, J
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653
DATE MAILED:

03/30/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

9/350 251

Applicant(s)

M ALEK ET AL

Examiner

NGUYEN

Group Art Unit

3653

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/11/01
- ☒ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 12-25, 28-31 is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 11, 26 is/are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 and 27 is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 11
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 3653

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on 2/1/01 have been approved.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For clarity and/or definiteness, it appears that "second" (claim 3, line 8) should be deleted.

The following appear to **lack sufficient antecedent basis** (in the claim): "The first inspection position" and "the second inspection position" (claim 2).

All claims should be revised carefully to correct all other deficiencies similar to the ones noted above.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art.

The admitted prior art discussed on pages 2-5 of the specification discloses substantially all the claimed features except for an inverting mechanism. Since the inverting operation is usually done by hand, the provision of a mechanism to perform this function would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art seeking efficiency and reduced labor costs. The flip station of claim 11 reads on the station where the human operator performing the inverting operation is stationed.

Art Unit: 3653

Claims 3-10 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 12-25, 28-31 are allowed.

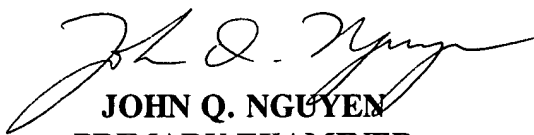
Applicant's arguments filed 2/1/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. It has been held by the courts that it is not invention to broadly provide a mechanical or automatic means to replace manual activity which has accomplished the same result.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Only inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner whose telephone number is (703) 308-2689.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


JOHN Q. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600